

**30628 to 30671—Continued.****30658. NITRARIA RETUSA (Forsk.) Aschers.**

From near Bis-Wick, Chinese Turkestan. "(No. 1559a.) The desert currant, a species closely allied to that of which seed was sent under No. 29250 from a different locality. See remarks under that number." (Meyer.)

*Distribution.*—The countries along the Mediterranean in northern Africa and eastward through Palestine and Syria to Turkestan.

**30659. ASPARAGUS sp.****Asparagus.**

From Ism-Salah, Chinese Turkestan. "(No. 1560a, December 7, 1910.) A wild asparagus found on sandy, saline land. Of slightly twining habit and generally found growing in scattered clumps." (Meyer.)

**30660. CALLIGONUM sp.**

From near Guma, Chinese Turkestan. "(No. 1561a, November 16, 1910.) A small variety existing in absolutely sandy deserts; makes enormous long roots. Grubbed out and used as fuel by the natives. Is of good sand-binding qualities and should be tested for this purpose at some experiment station in a desert." (Meyer.)

**30661. MELILOTUS ALBA Desr.****Sweet clover.**

From near Susan, Chinese Turkestan. "(No. 1562a, December 7, 1910.) A sweet clover occurring on dry, sandy places. Observed only once. To be tested in a hot, dry region, under irrigation." (Meyer.)

**30662. ALHAGI PSEUDALHAGI (Bieb.) Desv.****Camel's thorn.**

(*Hedysarum pseudalhagi* Bieberstein, Flora Taurico-Caucasica, vol 2, p. 174, 1808.)

This leguminous manna-producing shrub was first given a distinctive binomial name by Bieberstein in 1808, as *Hedysarum pseudalhagi*. Fischer, in 1812 (Catalogue Jardin Gorenki, p. 72), transferred it to the genus *Alhagi* but used the name *Alhagi camelorum*, by which the plant has since been known. Desvaux (Journal de Botanique, vol. 1, 1813, p. 120) states that there are two species, *Alhagi mannifera* and *pseudalhagi*, but does not describe them. His evident intention being to publish the binomial *Alhagi pseudalhagi*, he is here given as the authority for the name.

From near San-Kia, Chinese Turkestan. "(No. 1563a, November 17, 1910.) A very prickly, herbaceous, perennial legume, occurring on very dry lands, often in pure sand and shifting sand at that; also found on rather strong alkaline soil. Its uses are as follows: On the places where it abounds in great quantities it is cut and harvested like hay, to be used as a fuel. Most of the bricks in Russian Turkestan have been baked by means of this fuel. It is also a favorite food of the camel, which browses upon the herbage as long as it is not too old; sheep and goats also like it when it is young and the spines have not become too hard. Lastly, as a sand binder it has great value, but only in locations far removed from lands that may become cultivated, for this camel's thorn becomes a very serious pest in cultivated fields and is extremely hard to eradicate, as it throws up suckers from its broken-off roots. The pinkish brown flowers, which appear in enormous masses and give color to whole desert landscapes in the month of June, seem to be rich in honey. This plant should be tested at some experiment station in the desert of the southwestern United States." (Meyer.)

**30663. IRIS sp.****Iris.**

From near Upal, Chinese Turkestan. "(No. 1564a, December 31, 1910.) An Iris, probably *I. ensata*, found here and there along the fields on rather alkaline soils. The leaves form a very common tying material all through